Changes to Chinese and Japanese A levels 2024

For first assessment 2026

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Overview of amendment

The Department for Education ran a consultation in April 2023 regarding Chinese and Japanese A-Levels, which resulted in an update to the GCE AS and A level subject content for modern foreign languages in July 2023.

As a result, the following changes to the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chinese and Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Japanese have been made:

- Questions and responses to comprehension (listening and reading) tasks now appear **in English** instead of the target language (unless writing skills are also intentionally being assessed).
- Questions about the literary works and films now appear in **both the ta language and English**. Students will still be required to respond in the ta language to these questions.

These changes are applicable for first assessment in 2026.

Changes to Chinese A level – Paper 1

Fire dragon dance

1 Listen to the recording and put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(i) Today it is...

☐	**A**	Spring Festival.
☐	**B**	Qingming Festival.
☐	**C**	Dragon boat Festival.
☐	**D**	Mid-Autumn Festival.

(ii) The children's favourite activity is...

☐	**A**	admiring the full moon.
☐	**B**	playing with lanterns.
☐	**C**	setting off fireworks.
☐	**D**	performing a dance.

- Question titles now appear in English
- Questions and rubrics now appear in English
- Answers must now be in **English**

(a) What has helped China become "the world's factory"? (Write two details)

(2)

Changes to Chinese A level – Paper 2

- Question rubrics for the translation task now appear in English
- Questions now appear in both Chinese and English
- Students are still required to answer in **Chinese**

There are no changes to Paper 3 (Speaking) on the Chinese A level

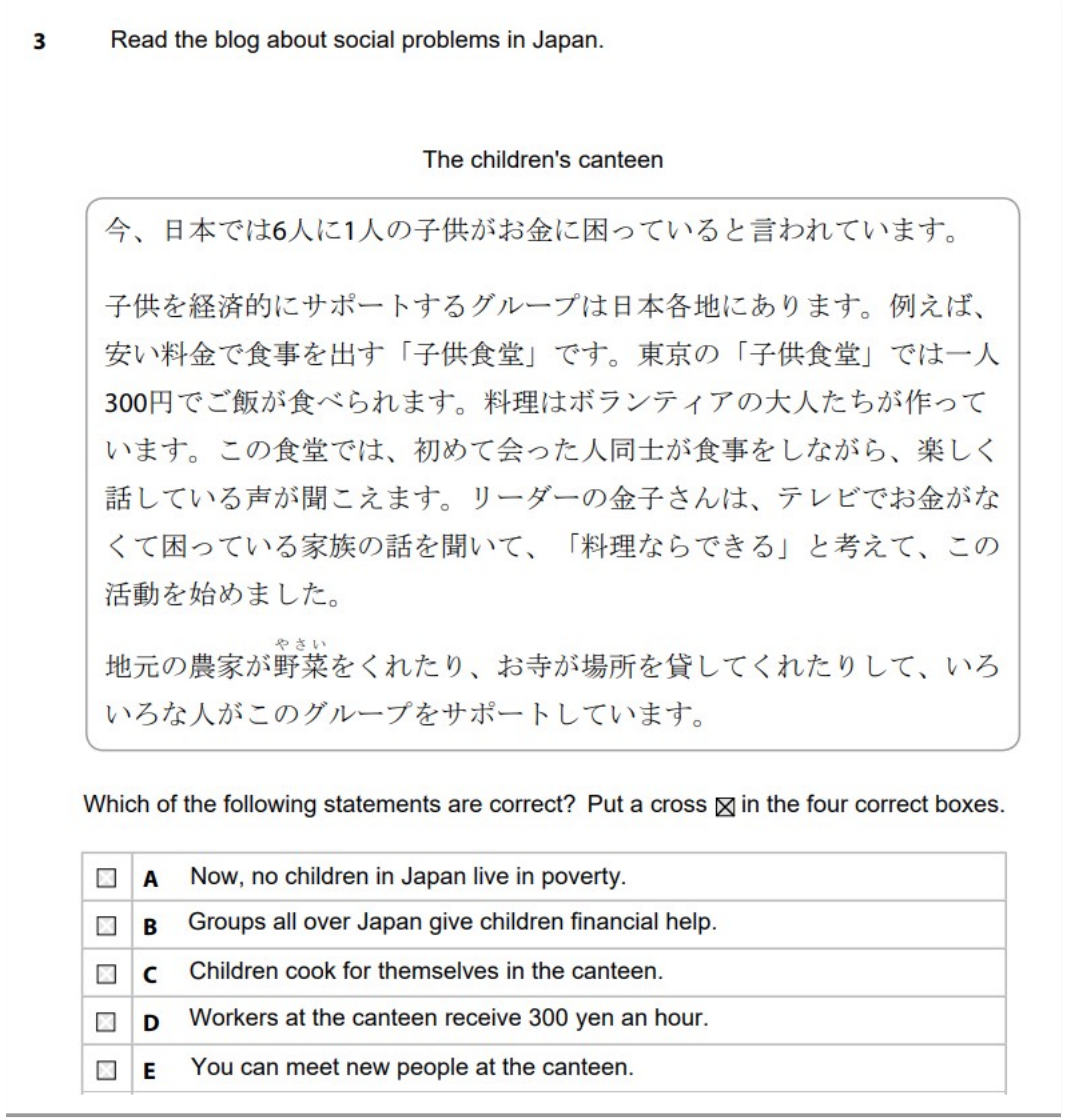
2 《一隻叫鳳的鴿子》(作者　曹文軒)

分析兩個家境不同的小男孩爲什麼最後能夠成爲朋友。

"A Very Special Pigeon" (Author Wenxuan Cao)

Analyse why two little boys of different family backgrounds were able to become friends in the end.

Changes to Japanese A level – Paper 1



3 Read the blog about social problems in Japan.

The children's canteen

今、日本では6人に1人の子供がお金に困っていると言われています。

子供を経済的にサポートするグループは日本各地にあります。例えば、安い料金で食事を出す「子供食堂」です。東京の「子供食堂」では一人300円でご飯が食べられます。料理はボランティアの大人たちが作っています。この食堂では、初めて会った人同士が食事をしながら、楽しく話している声が聞こえます。リーダーの金子さんは、テレビでお金がなくて困っている家族の話を聞いて、「料理ならできる」と考えて、この活動を始めました。

地元の農家が野菜(やさい)をくれたり、お寺が場所を貸してくれたりして、いろいろな人がこのグループをサポートしています。

Which of the following statements are correct? Put a cross ☒ in the four correct boxes.

☐	A	Now, no children in Japan live in poverty.
☐	B	Groups all over Japan give children financial help.
☐	C	Children cook for themselves in the canteen.
☐	D	Workers at the canteen receive 300 yen an hour.
☐	E	You can meet new people at the canteen.

Sections A and B

- Question titles now in English
- Questions and rubrics in English
- Answers must now be in **English**

Section C

- Question titles and rubrics
- Students are still required **Japanese**

Changes to Japanese A level – Paper 2

- Question rubrics for the translation task are now in English.
- Questions for set works now appear in both Japanese and English
- Students are still required to answer in **Japanese**

7 誰(だれ)も知らない（是枝裕和(これえだひろかず)）

Nobody Knows (Hirokazu Kore'eda)

(a) 「誰(だれ)も知らない」の話の中で、大人はどのように表現されていますか。分析しなさい。

Analyse how adults are depicted in "Nobody knows".

(45)

OR

(b) 「誰(だれ)も知らない」の話の中で、明と京子の行動は、お母さんがいなくなったあと、どのように変わりますか。考察して、あなたの意見を述べなさい。

Examine how the actions of Akira and Kyoko change after the
disappears in "Nobody knows".

(Total for Ques

TOTAL FOR SECTIONS B

TOTAL FOR PA

Changes to Japanese A level – Paper 3

The manga artist Oosa

1 Listen to the interview with the famous manga artist Oosa on the radio.

Choose the answer by putting a cross ☒ in the correct box.

(i) Oosa's mangas appear in a/an... (1)

☐	**A**	newspaper.
☐	**B**	book.
☐	**C**	textbook.
☐	**D**	advert.

(ii) Oosa's room is... (1)

☐	**A**	beautiful.
☐	**B**	clean.
☐	**C**	Western-style.
☐	**D**	Japanese-style.

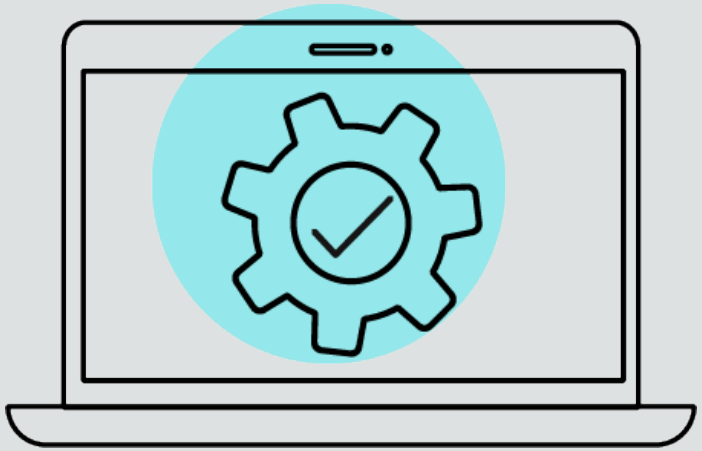
- Question titles, questions and rubrics now in English
- Answers must now be in **English** for **Section A**
- Students are still required to answer in **Japanese** for **Section B**

Summarise Mr. Kobayashi's opinion. Give four details in Ja

You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i)

Support



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